MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C. July 17, 1942

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1943 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, July 17, 1942. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Poor,

also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held June 19, 1942, were approved.

2. REPORT CONCERNING TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1942-1943. The Secretary reported that in recent months there has been an economy drive by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to save on travel expenses. The Department of Agriculture was cut $13,000,000 and the Interior Department several millions. Also a reduction of almost $2600 was made in the travel expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts. The Senate Appropriations Committee restored all these reductions but when it came to the final adoption of the bill, the House insisted that the Senate retract, which it did on about 171 amendments, among them the item above referred to pertaining to travel expenses of the Commission. The cost of Mr. Stackpole's trip from San Francisco averages $270 per round trip and in view of the reduction in the appropriation for travel expenses, it prohibits a trip by Mr. Stackpole to Washington for every meeting.

After consideration the Commission decided that arrangements would be made to have Mr. Stackpole come to Washington as often as possible and

if possible, every other meeting. The Secretary informed Mr. Stackpole accordingly.

3. GOOD CONDUCT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDALS. The Chairman gave each member of the Commission new War Department medals that have just been completed by the Medallic Art Company and presented by Mr. C. C. Trees, President: namely, the Good Conduct Medal by Joseph Kiselewski and the American Defense Medal by Lee Lawrie. The Commission expressed their appreciation of these medals.

4. ARMY AND NAVY MEDALS. The Secretary stated that he had asked the War Department and the Navy Department for some of their leading medals and that the following had been received from the War Department:

The Congressional Medal of Honor,
The Distinguished Service Cross,
The Distinguished Service Medal,
The Army Silver Star,
The Army and Navy Distinguished Flying Cross.

From the Navy Department:

The Navy Congressional Medal of Honor,
The Navy Cross,
The Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

The Commission expressed their appreciation of these medals and requested that the Chairman send letters of thanks to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of Navy (Exhibit A and A-1).

It was suggested also that the Purple Heart Emblem be secured from the War Department for the collection.

5. NAVY CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. Mr. James E. Fraser, who had come to Washington to confer with the officials of the Navy Department concerning a new Navy Congressional Medal of Honor, called to confer with the Commission concerning the matter.

Mr. Fraser stated that he had been awarded the design for this medal during the World War 1917 - 1918. The present medal is ugly, clumsy, and cheap. The new design is in the form of a compass (it is illustrated in the Eighth Report of the Commission, Page 30).

The Commission inspected the medal which Mr. Fraser presented. It was in a form of a compass about 2½ inches in diameter with colored enamel on the obverse, the same as an old compass. The Commission felt that this would make a very distinguished Navy Congressional Medal of Honor and the Commission advised Mr. Fraser that if it would help him he could tell the Admirals that the Commission unanimously favor his design in preference to the Navy Congressional Medal of Honor now in use.

6. CHINA SERVICE MEDAL. The Navy Department submitted a medal by Mr. George Snowden for the obverse of the China Service Medal. The Commission noted that it had been carefully made in accordance to the design heretofore approved by the Commission showing a Chinese junk with suitable lettering. The medal was considered to be a splendid work of art. A letter of approval was sent to the Navy Department. (Exhibit B).

7. AIR CORPS MEDAL. Major John K. Cunningham of the General Staff called on the Commission and submitted a design for an Air Corps Medal. He said that the design was made in the War Department. It was very ordinary showing an eagle on the obverse and place for an inscription on the reverse. The Commission felt that it could be developed into a good medal if put into the hands of a competent medallist. A letter was sent to Major Cunningham accordingly, together with a list of sculptors from which the selection could be made. (Exhibit C).

8. ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL. Major Cunningham reported that the General Staff had decided to accept the model for the obverse of the Army of Occupation Medal heretofore submitted to the Commission showing the head of General Pershing in profile. He said the matter was taken up by the General Staff with General Pershing and he interposed no objection to its use for the medal. The Commission recalled that this model showed an excellent portrait of General Pershing and it is understood that the War Department will now proceed with the production of the medal.

The Chairman stated that three of the members of the Commission, who will be entitled to these medals, represented three of the Divisions of the A.E.F. and the Army of Occupation in Germany in 1918-19-20. Dr. Cret served in the First Division, Mr. Holabird in the Second Division, and Mr. Clarke in the Third Division.

9. LEGION OF MERIT AND MEDAL FOR MERIT. The Secretary reported that the Senate and the House of Representatives had finally enacted legislation bill S.2404 (Exhibit D) providing for these medals and it was understood that the bill is now before the President for approval.

10. JOINT SESSION WITH THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION CONCERNING STATE DEPARTMENT ANNEX. The Commission met with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at 10:15 a.m. for the consideration of a design submitted for the State Department Annex on the west half of the square west of Lafayette Park; in connection with it, consideration was also given to the question of development of the east and north sides of Lafayette Park. It was recalled that this project has been pending since 1901 when the McMillan Park Commission recommended

a suitable development for the area adjacent to Lafayette Park so as to be in keeping with the White House.

Mr. William T. Partridge, Consulting Architect for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who was Consulting Architect for the McMillan Park Commission, presented a model of Lafayette Park with the present and proposed buildings surrounding it.

The design submitted by Mr. George Howe, Supervising Architect, for the State Department Annex for consideration by the Commissions had been designed by R. Stanley-Brown, Consulting Architect. Both of these gentlemen were present.

Congress has already provided funds for purchasing the west half of the square on the west side of Lafayette Park and the building plans submitted were designed to face 17th Street between Pennsylvania and H Streets and was designated Federal Office Building No.4. The members of both Commissions considered the project in some detail and reached the following conclusions:

1. The design for a building on this important square facing Lafayette Park and the White House should be more dignified and richer in appearance than the one contemplated in the plan submitted.

2. A single building should be designed for the entire square before action is taken on adopting a scheme for the treatment of the west half of the square.

3. It was considered desirable to have a uniform facade not exceeding a height of 80 feet, allowing an increase to about 110 feet in the center of the building after appropriate setbacks.

4. Suitable provision should be made for an appropriate principal entrance from the Lafayette Park side of the building as well as an entrance from Pennsylvania Avenue. There should be interior light courts and the building should be set back sufficiently from the building lines so as to allow adequate space for grass and planting. Mention was made of the possibility of a reentrant court in the center of the principal facade facing the park.

5. Both Commissions decided that the scheme for the Treasury Annex development as proposed by Mr. Gilbert about 20 years ago was unsatisfactory and further that the scheme should be given restudy having in view the extension of the Treasury Annex from Pennsylvania Avenue to H Street along Madison Place on the east side of Lafayette Park in a manner which would eliminate the long single unbroken facade, possibly providing a central reentrant court where trees may be planted thus to relieve the long unbroken walls.

6. It was thought that in due time consideration should be given to the development of the north side of Lafayette Park but for the present nothing could be done about it.

The design submitted having been considered unsatisfactory, Mr. Howe stated he would give the project further study and take into consideration the points brought up in this discussion. He pointed out however that the Budget Bureau has impounded funds for making further studies since during the War period the necessary materials could not be secured for constructing the proposed building.

11. DECORATION IN THE BLUE ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE. On June 30, 1942 the following letter was received from Mr. H. G. Crim, Chief Usher of the White House:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1942

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

The attached copy of letter from the Richmond Art Company, dated June 29, 1942, is forwarded for consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts at the next meeting, which I understand will be early in July.

Yours very truly,
H. G. CRIM,
Chief Usher

RICHMOND ART COMPANY
Richmond, Virginia

June 29, 1942

Dear Mr. Crim:

Your letter of June 23 with enclosure from the Fine Arts Commission came as quite a surprise, inasmuchas we had thought it generally understood that the work is not, so to speak, completed; and we did not know that the Commission would be brought in until such time as it is.

When I was in Washington a short while ago, I had discussed the necessary alterations and feel that it can certainly be made right in every respect. We are only awaiting word as to a convenient time for the work to be done.

The letter from the Commission does not, I trust, imply that the work will be rejected without our having the opportunity of completing it to your and the Commission's entire satisfaction.

Very truly yours,
RICHMOND ART COMPANY
J. Alton Joel, President

In accordance with arrangements made, Mr. Crim and Mr. Winslow, architect at the White House, conferred with the Commission.

Mr. Crim said that since the Richmond Company stated that they have not finished the job and since it represents a considerable investment on their part, he recommended that they be permitted to complete the work to their satisfaction before further formal action is taken with respect to acceptance or rejection of the work. Mr. Crim stated that the three pairs of draperies cost $3,214.76, and called attention to the fact that these draperies are handmade and that it took 18 months to make them. The decorations on the wall cost $1,573.25. This makes a total cost of $4,788.01.

Mr. Crim presented photographs showing evidence of the unsatisfactory condition of the work. The photographs showed that the seams were sewn badly; in places there were stains; tears were indicated around the lighting fixtures.

Dr. Cret asked if the contractor had done any work since the members of the Commission were at the White House in June and Mr. Crim replied, "No."

In the discussion it was suggested that this matter be brought to the attention of the special Committee on White House Furnishings and, in particular, the two lady members, Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Benkard. Thereupon it was decided:

1. That the contractor should be allowed to complete the work and that thereupon, the company should notify Mr. Crim in writing when it is complete and ready for inspection. Mr. Crim said he would write a letter to the company immediately.

2. After Mr. Crim is notified by the contractor that they have completed the work, arrangements will be made for the special committee on the White House furnishings to inspect the Blue Room - in particular the two lady members of the committee namely, Mrs. H. I. Pratt and Mrs. Benkard. At the same time, a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts would be held to make another inspection of the Blue Room.

12. WAR POSTERS. Mr. Poor reported that he had sent a letter to Mr. Thomas D. Mabry, Acting Chief of the Office of Facts and Figures, with a list of about a dozen good painters representing all parts of the United States to act as a board in the matter of a proposed project to secure war posters from the painters throughout the country. The Commission felt this is a good thing since the artists would then be judged by their peers. Mr. Poor said he had not heard further from Mr. Mabry concerning the matter.

In connection with the project proposed by the Section of Fine Arts that artists be employed to paint war scenes on battlefields, etc., the Secretary reported that he had taken the letter which the Chairman wrote on the subject to the White House (Exhibit E) and was assured that the letter would be brought to the attention of the President. A reply was received from President Roosevelt declining to approve the project proposed "since it appears that adequate provision has either been made, or is contemplated, for the proposed activity." (Exhibit E-1).

13. BOUNDARY CHANNEL COLUMBIAN ISLAND BRIDGE. Mr. Donald Kline, Architect of the Office of National Capital Parks presented four sketches of a permament bridge to take the place of a wooden trestle at the north end of Columbia Island along Lee Highway. Mr. Kline said that the plan

required the approval of the Public Roads Administration so that their recommendation can be embodied in the design. Due to the vacation period this has not as yet been received.

Of the four different sketches, the Commission recommended the one showing the three spans. It was thought the arches could be in concrete with stone faced piers abutments and wing walls. Steel arches probably would be more desirable than reinforced concrete if this material can be secured. Mr. Kline said that the temporary wooden trestle now in place is crossed by thousands of cars everyday being on the Lee Highway approach to Washington from the west and that in the interest of safety it should be replaced soon by a permament structure. This structure is one of the important bridges in connection with the system of connecting roadways for the new War Department in Arlington County, Virginia.

14. BILLBOARDS ON TREASURY DEPARTMENT GROUNDS. Miss Harlean James, Executive Secretary of the American Planning and Civic Association, telephoned and protested against the large advertising sign erected near the Treasury Department at the head of Pennsylvania Avenue on Treasury Department grounds. The sign was erected to assist in the sale of U.S. government bonds. Miss James felt this was an advertising scheme sponsored by the Outdoor Advertising Company, and the matter should come under the Shipstead-Luce Act for the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. Miss James stated that protest was made a few years ago regarding a similar sign that the Community Chest had erected at the site and it was taken down.

The Commission considered the matter and decided that since this sign is erected for promoting the sale of bonds and thus to help prosecute the War, it can be considered a temporary sign.

The Secretary said that Government officials are not required to submit an application to the Inspector of Buildings of the District of Columbia for a permit to erect signs as is required of private individuals. Also that it has been the policy of the Commission to interpose no objection to the erection of temporary signs since they are taken down after a brief period. The Commission noted that a large sign has just been erected along Constitution Avenue near 18th Street with a view to promoting the sale of United States Government Bonds.

In the circumstances, the Commission decided to make no formal protest to the Treasury Department concerning the sign in question.

15. INSPECTION TRIP. During the afternoon the Commission made a trip of inspection to South Washington and saw several improvement projects under way.

1. 14th Street Grade Separation Project.

2. Pontoon bridge between the highway bridge and the railroad bridge.

3. New War Department Building in Arlington County, Virginia, which is nearing completion.

4. Clearance of slum area of about 1,000 acres that once represented Jackson City.

5. Construction of roadways and bridges that connect with the new War Department Building.

6. The site of the proposed permament bridge over Boundary Channel at the north end of Columbia Island along the Lee Highway to take the place of the wooden trestle.

7. Pontoon bridge at the northern end of Theodore Roosevelt Island near Georgetown.

The Commission adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

July 17, 1942

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today had before them the medals which you sent recently in accordance with our request as follows:

The Congressional Medal of Honor of the Army,

The Army Distinguished Service Cross,

The Army Distinguished Service Medal,

The Army Silver Star,

The Army and Navy Distinguished Flying Cross.

The Commission wish to express to you their grateful appreciation for these medals. They will be placed in their collection of medals and insignia, and will be referred to from time to time in connection with the work of the Commission.

In the years past the Commission have appreciated the co-operation of the War Department in the production of medals and insignia.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

(EXHIBIT A)

July 17, 1942

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today had before them the medals which you sent recently in accordance with our request as follows:

Navy Medal of Honor

Navy Distinguished Service Medal

Navy Cross

The Commission wish to express to you their grateful appreciation for these medals. They will be placed in their collection of medals and insignia, and will be referred to from time to time in connection with the work of the Commission.

In the years past the Commission have appreciated the co-operation of the Navy Department in the production of medals and insignia.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Hon. Frank Knox,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

(EXHIBIT A-1)

July 17, 1942

Dear Admiral Jacobs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today approved the plaster model, which you submitted with your letter of July 15, for the China Service Medal.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs,
Chief of Naval Personnel,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

(EXHIBIT B)

July 17, 1942

Dear Major Cunningham:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today gave consideration to the design for a proposed Air Corps Medal which you submitted.

The Commission disapproved the design. However, the Commission felt that in the hands of a competent medallist, certain elements of the design could be used with indications that a good medal could be produced. We are sending you a copy of a list of sculptors recently furnished the War Department from which a selection may be made of an artist for this medal, or if desired 2 or 3 artists could be chosen whom you could ask to submit sketches for the proposed medal. This would be in the nature of a limited competition. A month's time should be sufficient for the submission of a sketch for the medal.

The Commission will be pleased to cooperate with the General Staff in this matter and will give prompt attention to a new design whenever it is received.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Major John K. Cunningham,
Personnel Division,
War Department, General Staff,
Room 2342,
Munitions Building

(EXHIBIT C)

Sculptors commissioned in 1942 to design medals.

| Name | Address | Medal |
|---|---|---|
| Joseph Kiselewski | 519 East 84th Street, New York, N.Y. | Good Conduct Medal |
| Lee Lawrie | Locust Lane Farm, Easton, Maryland | American Defense Medal |
| Paul Manship | 319 East 72d Street, New York, N.Y. | Maritime Medal |
| T. A. Rovelstad | Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Ills. | Army of Occupation Medal |

The following named sculptors are recommended as being competent medalists. The names appear alphabetically and have no relation to order of preference.

| Name | Address |
|---|---|
| Robert Aitken | 42 Washington Mews, New York, N.Y. |
| Edward Amateis | Brewster, N.Y. |
| Chester Beach | 207 East 17th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| A. Stirling Calder | 51 West 10th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Gaetano Cecere | 436 West 38th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Ulric Ellerhusen | 51 West 10th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| John Flanagan | 116 West 65th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Anthony de Francisci | 116 West 65th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| James Earle Fraser | Westport, Connecticut |
| Laura G. Fraser | Westport, Connecticut |
| Leo Friedlander | Hartsdale Road, West, White Plains, N.Y. |
| Sherry E. Fry | Roxbury, Connecticut |
| John Gregory | 65 West 56th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Walker Hancock | Lanesville, Gloucester, Massachusetts |

| Name | Address |
|---|---|
| Malvina Hoffman | 157 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| C. Paul Jennewein | 538 Van Nest Avenue, New York, N.Y. |
| Thomas H. Jones | Mechanicsville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania |
| Charles Keck | 40 West 10th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| George J. Lober | 33 West 67th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Hermon MacNeil | College Point, Long Island, N.Y. |
| Edward McCartan | 225 East 67th Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Brenda Putnam | 356 West 22d Street, New York, N.Y. |
| Victor Salvatore | 45 Astor Place, New York, N.Y. |
| William M. Simpson | Care American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. |
| A. A. Weinman | Forest Hills, Long Island, N.Y. |
| Mahonri M. Young | Ridgefield, Connecticut |

[PUBLIC LAW 671—77TH CONGRESS]
[CHAPTER 508—2D SESSION]
[S. 2404]

AN ACT

To authorize officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States to accept decorations, orders, medals, and emblems tendered them by governments of cobelligerent nations or other American republics and to create the decorations to be known as the "Legion of Merit", and the "Medal for Merit".

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States be, and they are hereby, authorized during the present war and for a year thereafter to accept from the governments of cobelligerent nations or the other American republics such decorations, orders, medals, and emblems, as may be tendered them, and which are conferred by such governments upon members of their own military forces, hereby expressly granting the consent of Congress required for this purpose by clause 8 of section 9, article I, of the Constitution: *Provided*, That any such officer or enlisted man is hereby authorized to accept and wear any decoration, order, medal, or emblem heretofore bestowed upon such person by the government of a cobelligerent nation or of an American republic.

SEC. 2. (1) That there is hereby created a decoration to be known as the "Legion of Merit", which shall have suitable appurtenances and devices and not more than four degrees, and which the President, under such rules and regulations as he shall prescribe, may award to (a) personnel of the armed forces of the United States and of the Government of the Philippines and (b) personnel of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations who, since the proclamation of an emergency by the President on September 8, 1939, shall have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

(2) That there is hereby created a decoration to be known as the "Medal for Merit", which shall have distinctive appurtenances and devices and only one degree, and which the President, under such rules and regulations as he shall prescribe, may award to such civilians of the nations prosecuting the war under the joint declaration of the United Nations and of other friendly foreign nations as have, since the proclamation of an emergency by the President on September 8, 1939, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services: *Provided*, That awards to civilians of foreign nations shall be only for the performance of an exceptionally meritorious or courageous act or acts in furtherance of the war efforts of the United Nations.

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Approved, July 20, 1942.

(EXHIBIT D)

The White House.

(EXHIBIT E)

COPY

June 27, 1942.

My dear Mr. President:

A plan for commissioning some of America's outstanding artists, to serve with our armed forces as recorders of the facts and as interpreters of the spirit of this conflict, has come to our attention.

We understand that this plan, sponsored by the Federal Works Agency, has been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget.

We have seen work representative of British artists in a somewhat similar enterprise and we believe that this artistic record is of the greatest permanent cultural value to Great Britain, as well as to serve as an immediate and effective force for propaganda.

In the case of the United States, we feel that it would be immensely important to embark upon a similar program and to do it well. The plan as outlined seems to give good assurance that our most talented artists will be used and offers the best opportunity that the work produced will be of such a quality that it may become not merely a factual record, but an expression of the spirit and meaning of the cause for which we fight.

We therefore respectfully urge that you give this program your consideration and support.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

The President,
The White House.

(EXHIBIT E)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1942

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have your letter of June 27, 1942 soliciting my support for the program, recently submitted to the Bureau of the Budget by Federal Works Agency, to provide a corps of pictorial war correspondents.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget recently submitted this program to me for consideration. I do not question the merits of the project. However, artists who are now serving with the armed forces have produced some very commendable work in connection with war activities. This work is being supplemented by commercial artists and publishers in their normal pursuit of war time subjects. The Army also has a plan for the creation of an artists corps within the military establishment if and when it seems appropriate to launch such a project.

Taking cognizance of the above, I am not inclined to approve a new program in this category, since it appears that adequate provision has either been made, or is contemplated, for the proposed activity.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E-1

38. State Department Building:

The Commission of Fine Arts, including its Chairman, MAJOR CLARKE, joined the meeting at this point for joint discussion of plans for the State Department building.

MR. NOLEN stated that the reason for the joint meeting is to consider the interest of the two Commissions in the development of Square 167, and the general relationship of that development to the entire group of public buildings around Lafayette Square and the White House. The matter was considered by the Commission in May, and recommendation was made that a general plan be prepared for the use of the whole Square in relation to Lafayette Square, the buildings to be grouped around this Square and the White House. An effort will be made at this joint meeting to lay down certain general principles governing the use of the site and the development of this Square. For that purpose, MR. PARTRIDGE has prepared a detailed report and illustrative models showing various alternate designs and their relationship to Lafayette Square and the White House.

The Chairman stated that under the Shipstead Act if and when the existing buildings are removed, those replaced would be compelled to conform to the requirements of that Act. There exists at present some buildings bordering the Square which do not conform, and it is important that when and if these buildings are ever replaced, they conform to the requirements of the Shipstead Act.

MR. PARTRIDGE stated - "The original plan of MR. McKIM for Lafayette Square surrounded the entire Square with buildings of uniform height. The zoning height of these two Squares is restricted to 80 feet. Then the law was amended so that higher buildings could go up in this area. The construction of this State Department building brings up reconsideration of that 80-foot height. Whether the proposed building is carried to 80 feet or higher is a question for consideration. It is suggested that the center of the building be carried up to 110 feet, and that the mass of the building be brought out further but with setbacks. As the building regulations now stand, nothing but elevators can go beyond the 80-foot height. On the other side of the Square, we have the same problem. If we put the building 80 feet on the other side, it will be overpowered by the other buildings behind and around it, and it would be entirely dominated by the adjoining buildings. I submit for consideration a modification of the Zoning Regulations by which the central part of the building could be increased so that the building would have some relation to the future buildings 110 feet high. The sides could still be kept at 80 feet. The second question is consideration of the setback from Pennsylvania Avenue. The present Treasury Annex building is carried out to the building line, and projects beyond that for a stylobate. If we repeat that on the other side, we have this question of height and balance. The central part of the building would be carried up to 100 or 110 feet, which brings the central part in line with the future business buildings to the west of 17th Street. It will also allow setting the building back to get some planting. One plan gives more planting space than the other. The Supervising Architect suggested the idea of preserving the historic houses in this Square, which will present a number of problems, and it is a question of whether it is desirable to do so. Two questions should be settled - one, whether the 80-foot line with no pent-house should hold, and two, whether the architect should be allowed to carry the central part of the building up to 110 feet or higher, in order to tie in with the heights allowable for private buildings immediately opposite."

The Chairman stated that while he has advocated the Government purchasing the Blair and Decatur houses in this Square, he does not believe the Government should bind itself never to tear them down.

Discussion included the opinion of the members that the Government is wise in holding down the height of the buildings; that the basis for the 80-foot height restriction is the 1910 Act, and the scope and intent of that regulation is to cover squares adjacent to public buildings; suggestion of building up the central part of the building to 110 feet; the tendency on the part of the Government to overcrowd its land and get as much use therefrom as possible.

MAJOR CLARKE stated that he and members of his Commission believe that it would be preferable to increase the height of the building in the center to 110 feet and leave the 80-foot height around the perimeter.

GEN. KINGMAN thought it was desirable to plan the entire group of buildings in this Square at this time, with the perimeter to a height of 80 feet observed around the building, and with the central portion higher but set back.

MAJOR CLARKE stated further - "I feel that the 80-foot height is important on Pennsylvania Avenue. If you build to a greater height, the mass on the other side would throw it all out of balance. I think it would be a great mistake to go higher than 80 feet in that respect. I also personally feel that the central entrance court on the park side is more desirable than to try to get a small setback from Pennsylvania Avenue for a narrow planting, which is totally inadequate. You should try to tie the park planting into both the court west of the park and the one east of the park, which is better than attempting to get just a little on Pennsylvania Avenue. I would advocate keeping out to the building line on Pennsylvania Avenue."

MR. HOWE, Supervising Architect, was present and stated that in making these plans, they were guided by a desire to take every advantage to get the maximum use of the area, and that they were required to use the 81-foot height to meet their requirements. He is entirely in sympathy with the Commission's effort to develop a plan for the control of the whole area.

COL. SNOW stated that he concurs with the views expressed by GEN. KINGMAN in that the 80-foot height should be kept all around the perimeter of the building, but preferred the plan showing the setback on Pennsylvania Avenue.

MR. PARTRIDGE also suggested that the plan be considered which provides an open vista carried through the park to the White House.

MR. HOWE stated that they have prepared two alternate designs for the building, but find that they do not provide the required space, although both would preserve the two historical buildings in this Square.

Discussion included the question of whether the two Commissions now considering the matter can determine the height of the building without going to Congress for a revision of the height restrictions for this area; that there is now a special regulation concerning Square 167 so far as it relates to private ownership; whether the ownership of the west half of this Square by the Federal Government places the whole area within the scope of the Shipstead Act.

The Chairman and MAJOR CLARKE both felt that the scope of the Shipstead Act should be extended to cover the remainder of the Square.

MR. HOLEN expressed the opinion that the maximum height of the buildings in this Square should be kept down to 110 feet, with 90-foot on the setbacks, and with only two stories above the 90-foot height. That would balance what has already taken place in this area.

The Commission of Fine Arts withdrew at this point.

No definite action by the two Commissions, although it was understood that the Supervising Architect would be guided by the discussion and suggestions of the two Commissions.

August 27, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS:

Chairman Clarke and Mr. Poor met with Colonel Townsend Heard and Colonel Bob E. Nowland of the General Staff and Lieut. Col. John H. Heil, Jr., of the Services of Supply, concerning the proposed Legion of Merit Medal, models for which had been made by a Miss Lane and Caproni of Boston. These models were presented by Col. Heard, as well as models for the proposed Medal for Merit, by Lane and Caproni, just received.

Col. Heard explained the general history of the medal to date, stating that the work thus far represents two years of effort, and the design has had the approval of the War and Navy Departments and also the State Department. The following is an explanation of the designs:

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL B. E. NOWLAND, CHIEF, MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH, G-1:

For your information, the following are descriptions of the Legion of Merit and the medal "For Merit." Both designs were developed from the Great Seal of the United States.

LEGION OF MERIT

The obverse is a five-pointed American star, of heraldic form, in red and white enamel, centered with a constellation of the 13 original stars on a blue enameled field breaking through a circle of clouds. The star is backed by a laurel wreath, the symbolic award for achievement, which is interlaced with crossed war arrows pointing outward, in gold, representing the protection afforded by the armed forces to the nation.

On the reverse appear the words "United States of America" incised on a circling ribbon. In the center is space left for inscription of the name and rank of the individual to whom the award is made. Surrounding this is a band which carries the words (taken from the reverse of the Great Seal) "Annuit coeptis" (He (God) has favored our undertakings), and the date MDCCLXXXII, the year of the founding of our first decoration, for military merit, by General George Washington.

The ribbon is of a purple-red color, edged with white.

FOR MERIT

The obverse shows the eagle of the United States resting on a sheaf of arrows, encircled by the 13 original stars of white enamel spaced on a gold-bronze ring. The design is indicative of the dependence of the nation on the armed forces, while the arrows,

banded together and pointed downward, are symbolic of the strength of the Union and the non-combatant motif of civilian service. Below the band of stars, the motto "Novus ordo seclorum," is taken from the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States and "signifies the beginning of a new American era." The Medal is suspended from the ribbon by a laurel wreath, the symbolic award for achievement.

The reverse has "United States of America" in raised letters around the upper half of the ring, and the words "For Merit" on the lower half, below which is space left for placing the name of the individual to whom the award is made.

The ribbon is purple-red in color, with two silver stripes running parallel to the center.

/s/ TOWNSEND HEARD,
Colonel, G. S. C.
Chief, American Intelligence Command.

Mr. Clarke called attention to the letter of August 3, 1942, in which he had disapproved the models, based on photographs thereof. (Exhibit A). Also he read the following telegrams from Mr. Stackpole and Mr. Holabird, and letters from Mr. Poor, Dr. Cret and Mr. Lamb, concurring in the letter of disapproval of August 3d above mentioned:

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer
Commission of Fine Arts — August 18, 1942

In my opinion the medal in question is very poor. I agree wholly with Mr. Clarke's letter to Major Cunningham.

RALPH STACKPOLE

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Commission of Fine Arts — August 12, 1942

Agree with all Clarke's criticisms of medal. If changed accordingly and with proper color believe it would make a good medal unless too obviously similar to French Legion of Honor. I cannot pass on this defect. If meeting necessary suggest Manship as advisor to Commission in place of myself as member.

JOHN A. HOLABIRD

Dear Gilmore, — August 13, 1942

I am with you absolutely about the Medal for Merit designs. I think all your specific criticisms are well justified. May I add that I think the whole design has the bad professional air of mediocrity about it, that is, it piles up all the meaningless stuff which we associate with medals into a very commonplace total, and makes not one original contribution in either design or symbol. I think we should do our best to get some alive and present day designs.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY V. POOR

August 12, 1942

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I agree entirely with the criticisms and subsequent disapproval of the Legion of Merit Medal model as stated in the correspondence of the Chairman on the subject.

Very sincerely yours,
PAUL P. CRET

August 14, 1942

Dear Major Clarke:

I have read carefully your letter of August 3d to Major John K. Cunningham regarding the design of the proposed Legion of Merit Medal, and concur in your criticisms of this design.

It is deplorable that out of the many capable medalists who could be found to do work of this sort, relatively few are employed on commissions as important as these are.

Very sincerely yours,
WM. F. LAMB

Mr. Clarke further pointed out that when the Commission saw designs for the proposed medal at a meeting held May 2, 1942, the Commission did not approve the design but stated it had elements which in the hands of a good medallist would produce a good medal; the War Department was informed accordingly at that time. (Exhibit B). Also Mr. Clarke read a copy of the letter from the President, expressing his interest in the design of good medals. (Exhibit C).

Colonel Heard stated that an agreement with Mr. Manship could not be reached in this matter, and Lane and Caproni were then commissioned to do the medal. Also he stated that the General Staff is being pushed to the limit to produce this medal as quickly as possible.

The Legion of Merit Medal is to be given to officers and enlisted men. The Medal for Merit is to be given to notable civilians, particularly from abroad, as e.g. the President of Peru.

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Poor considered the models for the Legion of Merit Medal to be flat and ordinary, lacking excellence in detail of workmanship, and without life and vitality; features of the design were exhibited as empty symbols. Furthermore to have letters incised in a model for a medal

is contrary to good principles of the art. Mr. Clarke said Miss Lane is well known as a sculptor of animals but her work on these models indicates that she is inexperienced as a medallist.

Colonel Heard defended Miss Lane by saying that the design was dictated by the War Department, even to the extent of incising the letters; she was therefore bound to carry out a design as best she could. He realized mistakes had been made and wanted to know then what could be done to correct them.

After discussion, the following changes were agreed to:

Legion of Merit Medal

Obverse

1. There should be a true laurel wreath.
2. The Bow should be bold and further stylized and heavier.
3. The suspension wreath should be raised to keep clear edge of wreath over star.
4. Leave out laurel berries.

Reverse

1. Use raised letters.

Medal For Merit

Obverse of eagle Approved.

Reverse: Make bold center. Leave out inside line of double ribbon. Have an indication of waves at ends of ribbon, so that space for inscription of recipient will be less bald. Correct the eagle's left wing to be like right.

Secretary

August 3, 1942

Re: Legion of Merit Medal

Dear Major Cunningham,

The design for the proposed Legion of Merit Medal, which you submitted on behalf of the War Department, and which is in the form of plaster models, has been carefully studied by this Commission. Realizing that you desire a prompt decision with respect to the merit of the design, I respectfully submit the following comments, without waiting for the color scheme for the enamel, which has been requested.

Obverse:

The design is an inferior imitation of the French Legion of Honor. Whereas a laurel wreath is called for, the representation on the model indicates a repetition of the form of a bud or flower. The bow is poorly designed, and is not of medallic quality. The arrows do not compose well with the other elements of the design. The indications intended to be clouds appear to revolve, producing a pin-wheel effect, which would be unpleasant. The small wreath above the star would create a much more satisfactory effect if indicated as a complete element, not enmeshed with one point of the star. The medal would doubtless take on a feeling of greater impressiveness if the small wreath were separate, as on the French Legion of Honor, and attached to the medal proper by a swivel.

Reverse:

The continuous curved line of the circling ribbon containing the inscription, "United States of America," which is superimposed on the wreath, the edges of which are broken, would produce an exceedingly unfortunate effect. The manner in which this same ribbon cuts across the points of the star results in the creation of a badly proportioned composition of the entire reverse. Lettering on medals should be in relief, rather than as indicated on the design submitted.

We believe that medals of the United States of America should be distinctive in form and character and not in any way resemble medals of other countries. To this end, it would seem questionable to use a star which so closely imitates many European decorations. The pointed star of the flag would seem to be a much more appropriate form, since it is distinctly American.

In view of these comments, the design for the Legion of Merit Medal by Lane and Caproni is disapproved.

It is respectfully suggested that they be requested to submit examples of medallic art which they have designed previously, before they are requested to re-study the design for this medal. Thus we may determine whether or not they are sufficiently competent to carry out an important commission.

Lane and Caproni are not known to this Commission, and no evidence has been found to demonstrate their competency, although it is altogether possible that they may be thoroughly qualified.

There are so many well qualified medalists and sculptors available that it would be most unfortunate to commission talent other than the best to carry out this and other designs of medals. The recipients of the awards are entitled to decorations which may be generally recognized by discerning persons as works of art.

Very truly yours,

GUTMORE D. CLARKE
Chairman

Major John K. Cunningham, Cavalry, U. S. A.
Personnel Division G-1
War Department General Staff
Washington, D. C.

(EXHIBIT A)

May 5, 1942.

Dear General Wharton:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 2, 1942, inspected the designs which you submitted with your letter of May 1st, for proposed medals, namely, the Legion of Merit and the Medal of Merit. The Commission were in conference with Major Heil concerning them.

The Commission were much pleased to note your statement that "a competent sculptor will be employed to execute these designs." This is in accord with a long-standing rule of the Commission of Fine Arts that artists chosen to execute medals will produce a work of art and a medal that the recipient will be proud to wear.

The Commission recommend that Paul Manship, sculptor, 319 East 72nd Street, New York City, be commissioned to execute the final designs and models for the Legion of Merit medal.

For the design and models of the medal "For Merit", the Commission recommend that Mr. John Flanagan, sculptor, 116 West 65th Street, New York City, be chosen.

Both Mr. Manship and Mr. Flanagan, sculptors of national reputation, are artists of outstanding ability in the production of medals.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,
Chairman

Brigadier General James E. Wharton, U.S.A.
Director of Military Personnel,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

(EXHIBIT B)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1942

My dear Mr. Chairman:

The copy of your letter of May 18th, which was forwarded to the White House by Secretary Caemmerer, addressed to the heads of departments and independent establishments, on the subject of medals and insignia, has come to my attention.

It is desirable that each such medal and insignia be designed and prepared, as you indicate, in a manner worthy of the service which it commemorates. It is also particularly desirable in these war days, with the great increase in the number of these medals and insignia, that they reflect the best possible design and workmanship, and I am sure your suggestions to the heads of departments and establishments will be helpful in this direction.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Honorable Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, The Commission
of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

(EXHIBIT C)